



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 8, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Approval Of Emergency Purchase Order For Work At The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve an Emergency Purchase Order to Central Machine for work at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero) in an amount not to exceed \$87,800.

DISCUSSION:

Wastewater from Santa Barbara homes and businesses is treated at El Estero using a biological treatment process. Central to the treatment is the use of microscopic biological organisms to remove waste material from the water. This is accomplished in large tanks called activated sludge basins. To maximize the effectiveness of this process, the amount of air in various parts of the activated sludge basins is varied. The sections of the tanks are separated by fiberglass baffles.

Recently, staff noticed that the brackets holding the fiberglass baffles in place were failing, and that the baffles were distorting during periods of high flow. Staff received a bid from Central Machine for fabrication and installation of more robust brackets.

Concerned that failure of the baffles could result in an inability to fully treat the wastewater, staff proceeded with the work on an emergency basis and notified Mayor and Council on January 19, 2011. Staff is seeking Council's approval of the emergency purchase order issued to complete this work.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Wastewater Fund capital budget includes funds for the maintenance and repair of capital facilities at El Estero. The emergency purchase order was issued using these funds.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Controlling the biological processes at El Estero is critical to our ability to treat the wastewater and meet permit limits. The baffles allow staff to improve control of the biological processes.

PREPARED BY: Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager/RJB/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office